

**II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1, 5-6, 12, 14-17, 19, 20-22 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohtake (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,599) and further in view of Soskind (U.S. 2002/0027712 A1). Claims 1-2, 8-9 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Itoh (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,896) in view of Soskind. Claims 30 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohzawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,450,648) and further in view of Soskind. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims, for the reasons set forth below.

**1. Rejection based on Ohtake or Ohzawa in view of Soskind**

Independent claims 1 and 30, as amended, are directed to an arrangement in which the nearest lens unit in said zoom lens system to more distant conjugate point is said first lens unit. The cited references, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least the above-noted claimed arrangement. Accordingly, claims 1, 5-6, 12, 14-17, 19, 20-22, 25 and 30-31 are believed to be distinguishable over the cited combination of Ohtake or Ohzawa in view of Soskind.

**2. Rejection based on Itoh in view of Soskind**

As suggested by the Examiner to traverse the 103(c) rejection, the Applicant submits that the current application serial no. 10/022,556 and the Itoh reference (i.e., U.S. Patent No. 6,191,896 B1) were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person or entity (i.e., Canon Kabushiki Kaisha). Enclosed is a copy of an ASSIGNMENT OF PATENT RIGHTS FOR THE UNITED STATES showing that

the subject matter of U.S. Patent No. 6,191,896 B1 to Itoh (Serial No. 09/145,241) was assigned to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha. The assignment of the current application serial no. 10/022,556, which is also assigned to Canon Kabushiki Kaisha, was recorded with the USPTO on March 18, 2002 at Reel 012718, Frame 0912. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 8-9 and 32 are respectfully requested.

### III. Objection to Claims 3-4, 7, 10-11, 13, 18, 23-24 and 26-29

The Examiner has objected to claims 3-4, 7, 10-11, 13, 18, 23-24 and 26-29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. As base claim 1 is believed to be allowable, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of these claims are respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

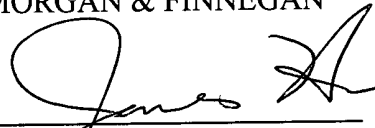
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4800. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4800. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: February 24, 2003

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Hiroto YASUI

Group Art Unit: 2873

Serial No.: 10/022,556

Examiner: WILLIAM C. CHOI

Filed: December 13, 2001

For: ZOOM LENS SYSTEM, IMAGE-PROJECTING AND IMAGE PICK-UP  
DEVICES USING THE SAME

**ATTACHMENT**

Amendments made to the claims 1 and 30 herein are indicated in this attachment by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please note the following changes to claims 1 and 30:

1. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising, in order from a more distant conjugate point for said zoom lens system, a first lens unit of [a] negative refractive power, a second lens unit of negative refractive power which moves during zooming, third, fourth and fifth lens units, wherein the nearest lens unit in said zoom lens system to more distant conjugate point is said first lens unit, and separation between each lens unit varies during zooming, and said zoom lens system further comprises at least one diffraction optical element.

30. (Amended) An image-projecting device comprising a zoom lens system that comprises, in order from a more distant conjugate point, a first lens unit of [a] negative refractive power, a second lens unit of negative refractive power which moves during zooming, third, fourth and fifth lens units, wherein the nearest lens unit in said zoom lens system to more

distant conjugate point is said first lens unit, and separation between each lens unit varies during  
zooming, and said zoom lens system further comprises at least one diffraction optical element,  
wherein said image-projecting device projects an original image to a subject surface[, said  
original image being located] located at a less distant conjugate position for said zoom lens  
system.

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